

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS
CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CTC Meeting: May 11-12, 2011

Reference No.: 2.3b.
Action Item

From: NORMA ORTEGA
Chief Financial Officer

Prepared by: Terry Abbott
Chief
Division of Design

Subject: **NEW PUBLIC ROAD CONNECTION, 5-SBT - PM 0.1**
RESOLUTION S-748

RECOMMENDATION:

The Department of Transportation (Department) recommends the California Transportation Commission (Commission) approve the attached Resolution S-748 and map authorizing a new public road connection at San Juan Road to State Route (SR) 101, near the Monterey/San Benito county line, in the county of San Benito.

ISSUE:

Monterey County and San Benito County have requested approval of a new public road connection to SR 101. Pursuant to Section 100.2 of the Streets and Highways Code, no local road shall be connected with any freeway until the Commission adopts a resolution consenting thereto. It is recommended that the Commission approve the resolution in accordance with the recommendation of the Chief Engineer. The resolution grants approval of a new public road connection as an interchange with SR 101 in the county of San Benito at Post Mile (PM) 0.1.

Recommended by: _____
RICHARD D. LAND
Chief Engineer

BACKGROUND:

The Transportation Agency of Monterey County (TAMC), the Council of San Benito County Governments, and the Department are proposing to construct a new interchange at SR 101 just northeast of the Monterey/San Benito County line. The new San Juan Road interchange will essentially replace three existing at grade connections to SR 101 in the area. The proposed improvements include closing the Dunbarton Road at grade connection at the south end of the project and extending San Juan Road and Cole Road until they intersect at the location of the new interchange. These modifications are expected to improve both safety and operations on SR 101.

On July 19, 1945, the California Highway Commission adopted SR 101 as a freeway. SR 101 is the major and historic thoroughfare through the Central Coast areas of California and the principal inter-city connection for numerous communities between Los Angeles and San Francisco. SR 101, within the project limits, accommodates significant amounts of interregional traffic including commercial and agricultural trucking, tourist, and business traffic. SR 101 is on the Freeway and Expressway System and it is part of the National Highway System. It is functionally classified as a principal arterial. The Federal Department of Defense, in cooperation with the Department, has also identified SR 101 as a Strategic Highway Corridor Network Route. In addition, SR 101 is on the Interregional Road System and is a designated Focus Route in the Caltrans Interregional Transportation Strategic Plan. SR 101 is also a State Highway Extra Legal Load Route and is a designated route on the National Truck Network under the 1990 Federal Surface Transportation Assistance Act.

Within the project limits, SR 101 is a four-lane rural expressway with 12-foot lane widths and outside shoulder widths that vary from 4 feet to 10 feet. The posted speed limit is 60 mph. Between San Juan Road and the Monterey/San Benito County line SR 101 has partial access control with median widths that vary from 16 feet to 22 feet and with minimal inside shoulder widths of 2 feet. Between the Monterey/San Benito County line and Cole Road, SR 101 has full access control with median widths that vary from 14 feet to 15 feet and with minimal inside shoulder widths of 5 feet. In the San Benito County portion of the project, northbound and southbound SR 101 run on separate alignments from 0.2 mile south of Cole Road to 0.2 mile north of Rocks Road.

San Juan Road, Cole Road and Dunbarton Road are the primary local roads to be modified by this project. San Juan Road is a two-lane undivided county road that connects to SR 101 from the west to form a T-intersection. Acceleration lanes to both directions of SR 101 are provided off of San Juan Road. Cole Road is a two-lane undivided county road that connects to southbound SR 101 from the west to form a skewed-intersection. To access northbound SR 101, Cole Road extends through a median crossing. Dunbarton Road intersects SR 101 on the southern end of the project limits and serves as the primary southbound connection in that vicinity.

An analysis, conducted on existing traffic volumes in June of 2008, found that during peak traffic periods the SR 101 intersections of San Juan Road, Dunbarton Road, and Cole Road each operates at a Level of Service "F". Traffic volume increases have led to fewer gaps in traffic for the motorist to merge onto the highway. Currently, vehicles from both directions of travel on SR 101 can directly access Dunbarton Road, and Cole Road west of SR 101. San Juan Road can be accessed directly only from southbound SR 101. To get onto San Juan Road from northbound SR 101, a motorist has

to either turn onto Dunbarton Road (North) or make a U-turn at Cole Road. With two lanes of highway traffic in each direction, access to these roads is especially difficult.

During a three-year study period between September 1, 2004 and August 31, 2007, it was found that most highway segments and intersections within the proposed project limits had collision rates higher than the statewide average for similar facilities. In particular, these studies show, the San Juan Road intersection has a collision rate 300 percent higher than the statewide average. The southbound SR 101 traffic approaching Cole Road and San Juan Road are on a 6 percent grade which tends to increase stopping sight distances.

The proposed project would construct a combination compact half diamond/one-quadrant cloverleaf interchange. San Juan Road, on the west side of SR 101, would be realigned and extended to the north where it then turns and crosses SR 101 as an overcrossing. Cole Road would be extended southerly until it connects to San Juan Road at a T-intersection. On the east side of SR 101, a new frontage road would be constructed off of San Juan Road towards the south. This new frontage road would be constructed parallel to SR 101 and end with a cul-de-sac at Marilyn Lane. Marilyn Lane and Ballantree Lane are private roads to be connected to this frontage road.

Access to Dunbarton Road (North) from SR 101 would be removed. Dunbarton Road (North) would become a frontage road ending with a cul-de-sac. The north end of Dunbarton Road (South) would only allow right in and right out traffic movement. The existing median crossover at Cole Road would be removed. The gaps in the median barrier on SR 101, within the project limits, would be closed with a concrete barrier.

After the completion of the project, it is proposed that the local roads constructed as part of the project be relinquished to Monterey County and San Benito County within their respective areas.

The proposed improvements in the preferred alternative are accepted and supported by the community, who recognize the need for safety and operational improvements within the project limits. A Public Hearing was held on February 5, 2009. All comments received were addressed in the Initial Study with Mitigated Negative Declaration/Environmental Assessment with Finding of No Significant Impact.

The proposed Monterey County 21st Century General Plan identifies this project and all its components. Also, San Benito County has identified this project in their 2010 Regional Transportation Plan. The project is consistent with all current local and regional plans.

The project is included in the Monterey Bay Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) Amendment No. 1 for federal fiscal years 2008 through 2012 adopted by the Association of Monterey Bay Area Government in June 2008. The project is being incorporated into the San Benito County General Plan Update. San Benito County held community workshops in 2007 where the San Juan Road interchange was listed.

A Project Study Report (PSR) was approved on August 7, 1997. A Project Study Report/Project Development Support was signed on January 31, 2000 as an update to the original PSR. The Project Report was approved on January 29, 2010. The project is expected to be open to traffic in the Fall of 2015.

The current capital cost estimate for the project is \$46.2 million. This project will be funded using a combination of the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program which includes the Regional Improvement Program and the Interregional Improvement Program, local matching funds from TMAC, American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009 Funds (Federal Stimulus) and Trade Corridor Improvement Funds in the 2012-2013 fiscal years.

The fact sheet for Nonstandard Advisory Design Features was approved on December 8, 2009. The fact sheet for Nonstandard Mandatory Design Features was approved on January 13, 2010.

The Initial Study with Mitigated Negative Declaration/Environmental Assessment with Finding of No Significant Impact was approved by the Commission on September 22, 2010, Resolution E-10-79.

Superseding freeway agreements were adopted by the County of Monterey and the County of San Benito on April 12, 2011. These freeway agreements will be executed by the Department after Commission approval of the new connection.

Attachments

Resolution S-748
Location Map

**CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
Resolution Authorizing a New Public Road Connection
5-SBt-101 PM 0.1**

Resolution S-748

WHEREAS, the County of San Benito and County of Monterey have requested approval of a new public road connection on State Route 101 for San Juan Road; and

WHEREAS, the Initial Study (Mitigated Negative Declaration)/ Environmental Assessment with Finding of No Significant Impact was approved on December 7, 2009 in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act and the National Environmental Policy Act; and

WHEREAS, the project will have impacts on the environment that will be mitigated; and

WHEREAS, a Project Report to construct a new interchange was approved by the California Department of Transportation on January 29, 2010.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the California Transportation Commission that pursuant to the authority vested in it by law, this Commission does hereby authorize one new public road connection on State Route 101 at San Juan Road, Post Mile 0.1, in the county of San Benito.

